State Bank of India have refused to 'release' pension unless the pensioner complies with bank's demand of Indemnity Bond;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial and compensatory measures contemplated for the benefit of pensioners under such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that nationalised banks are not authorised by it to demand indemnity bond in addition to the letter of undertaking, from first time pensioners who opt to receive pension through banks after retirement.

(b) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that no instance of its branches having refused to release pension in the absence of Indemnity Bond has come to its notice.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Duty on Antibacterial Drug**

3692. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of duty on imports of 3-4-5 trimethoxy benzaldehyde an antibacterial drug originating from China?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : 3-4-5 Trimethoxy benzaldehyde, when exported from People's Republic of China into India, is liable to the following duties of customs :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | Basic Customs Duty | — | 40% ad valorem |
| (ii) | Special Customs Duty | — | 2% ad valorem |
| (iii) | Additional Duty of Customs | — | 20% ad valorem |
| (iv) | Anti-dumping Duty | — | Rs. 237/- per kg. |

**Foreign Loan**

3693. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loans given to foreign countries by India upto March 31, 1996 alongwith the rate of interest chargeable country-wise;

(b) the details of recovery of loan given by India; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the foreign countries who have failed to repay the loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Efforts have been made through bilateral channels to effect recovery of GOI loans and some measure of success has been achieved in Vietnam, Uganda etc. Consistent default is also factored into consideration of further credits to defaulter countries.

**STATEMENT**

| Govt. with whom credit agreement entered into and year of agreement | | | Amount of Credit as per agreement (Rs. Million) | Repayment Outstanding |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | Vietnam Rescheduled (78, 80, 81, 82, 84) | | | 41,626,400 |
| 2. | Sri Lanka | 1981 | 100 | nil |
| 3. | Sri Lanka | 1978 | 100 | nil |
| 4. | Sri Lanka | 1979 | 100 | nil |
| 5. | Sri Lanka | 1987 | 250 | nil |
| 6. | Mauritius | 1984 | 50 | nil |
| 7. | Mauritius | 1978 | 100 | nil |
| 8. | Ghana | 1981 | 50 | 3,557,930.43 |
| 9. | Mozambique | 1981 | 40 | 39,853,170.46 |

| Govt. with whom credit agreement entered into and year of agreement | | | Amount of Credit as per agreement (Rs. Million) | Repayment Outstanding |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 |
| 10. | Nicaragua | 1986 | 125 | 56,250,000 |
| 11. | Tanzania | 1982 | 100 | 73,680,927.82 |
| 12. | Sri Lanka (Fertiliser Project) | 1975 | 100 | nil |
| 13. | Mauritius | 1986 | 46.6 | nil |
| 14. | Vietnam | 1987 | 150 | 82,500,000 |
| 15. | Bangladesh | 1983 | 200 | nil |
| 16. | Seychelles | 1981 | 25 | 2,512,074.21 |
| 17. | Tanzania | 1978/80 | 20 | 14,061,248.93 |
| 18. | Tanzania | 1979 | 4 | 4,004,10 |
| 19. | Zambia | 1979 | 100 | 57,886,293.66 |
| 20. | Kenya | 1982 | 50 | 10,000,000 |
| 21. | Yemen | 1981 | 10 | 5,740,000 |
| 22. | Zimbabwe | 1982 | 50 | nil |
| 23. | Mozambique | 1982 | 30 | 23,424,177.69 |
| 24. | Mozambique | 1982 | 20 | 17,728,781.85 |
| 25. | Guyana | 1989 | 100 | 4,170,000 |
| 26. | Mauritius | 1989 | 50 | nil |
| 27. | Vietnam | 1989 | 100 | 35,000,000 |
| 28. | Mauritius | 1991 | 50 | nil |
| 29. | Cambodia | 1991 | 15 | 2,500,000 |
| 30. | Seychelles | 1991 | 25 | 4,160,000 |
| 31. | Vietnam | 1990 | 100 | 20,000,000 |
| 32. | Seychelles | 1993 | US$ 1.6 Mn | US$ 66,000 |
| 33. | Surinam | 1992 | 50 | nil |
| 34. | Bangladesh | 1991 | 300 | 25,000,000 |
| 35. | Mongolia | 1993 | US$ 1.76 Mn | US$ 73,000 |
| 36. | Vietnam | 1993 | 390 | nil |
| 37. | Uzbekistan | 1993 | US$ 10 Mn | US$ 1,250,000 |
| 38. | Tajikistan | 1994 | US$ 5 Mn | US$ 312,500 |
| 39. | Kazakistan | 1993 | US$ 10 Mn | US$ 625,000 |
| 40. | Turkmenistan | 1995 | US $ 5 Mn | — |
| 41. | Mauritius | 1994 | US$ 3.2 Mn | — |
| 42. | Sri Lanka | 1996 | US$ 30 Mn | — |
| 43. | Vietnam | 1996 | 900 | — |

| Govt. with whom credit agreement entered into and year of agreement | | | Amount of Credit as per agreement (Rs. Million) | Repayment Outstanding |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 |
| 44. | Uzbekistan | 1994 | US$ 10 Mn | — |
| 45. | Turkmenistan | 1995 | US$ 10 Mn | — |
| 46. | Kazakistan | 1995 | US$ 10 Mn | — |
| 47. | Kyrghystan | 1995 | US$ 5 Mn | — |

*Note* : The rate of interest generally chargeable on the dollar denominated credit is fixed at the then prevailing six month LIBOR rate, whereas Rupee credits were offered at 5% rate of interest and earlier credits to Central Asian Republics were at 7% rate of interest.

**Strikes in Singareni Coalfield**

3694. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that frequent strikes in Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh is hampering production of coal and resulting in losses;

(b) if so, the total mandays lost/loss in production of coal in Singareni Collieries during each of the last two years due to strikes; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by the Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) the number of strikes during the last two years and the total mandays lost and loss in production on account thereof are as under :

| Year | No. of strikes | Mandays lost | Production loss (Tonnes) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 268 | 5,52,123 | 5,27,310 |
| 1995-96 | 191 | 36,77,892 | 33,02,740 |

(c) The management of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. interact with the Trade Unions on matters of common interest to improve industrial relations. "Strike free" mine awards are given to the employees in the mines and coal handling plants which have not resorted to strike in the year. Implementation of the concept of workers participation in management at the unit, area and corporate levels along with the implementation of the grievance procedure as contemplated in the Code of Discipline have helped SCCL management in maintaining good industrial relations.

*[Translation]*

**Income Tax Exemptions to MLA**

3695. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal/representation from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh/Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 for providing income-tax exemption to its M.L.As; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) During the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, the Union Govt. has received requests from the Madhya Pradesh Government for issuing Notification u/s 10(17)(iii) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 granting exemption to the Members of the M.P. State Legislature or of any Committee thereof in respect of all other allowances not exceeding Rs. 600 per month in aggregate.

On consideration of the above request of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Union Government requested the Government of Madhya Pradesh to specify the allowances for which they were seeking notification under Section 10(17)(iii) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

*[English]*

**Lalmatia Mines**

3696. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :